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E752 Wool

The WOOL SITUATION

TWS-31

FOR RELEASE
APR. 20, P.M.
1955

In this issue:
The 1955 Wool and Mohair Programs
Mill Use of Apparel Wool in U. S.

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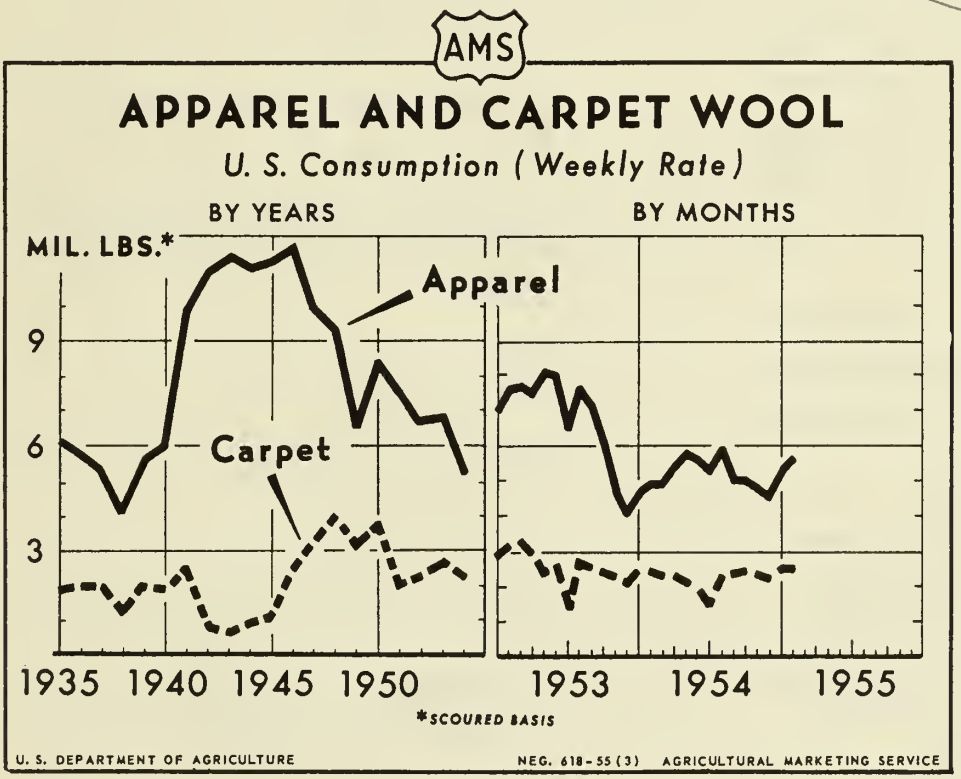

Mills used about one-fourth less apparel wool last year than in 1953. The rate of consumption was below a year earlier each month through October but above during the last two months of the year. The average weekly rate for the year was the lowest since 1938 and about 5 percent below the average for 1935-39.

Mill use of carpet wool last year also was below 1953. The rate of consumption was below a year earlier each month through September but above thereafter. The average weekly rate for the year was 14 percent below that of 1953 but about one-fifth above the average for 1935-39.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1953	1954				1955			Last data available as percent of a year earlier
		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	53.0	52.9	52.8	52.4	50.5	50.5	50.7	50.1	96
Parity price		58.4	1/	58.9	59.1	58.3	1/	59.4	59.6	101
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	91	---	90	89	87	---	85	84	
Boston, clean basis 2/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	167.5	156.0	155.0	155.6	153.5	92
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	152.5	152.5	152.8	152.5	143.1	145.0	145.0	143.0	94
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	132.5	132.5	127.5	126.4	130.0	129.4	126.5	99
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.0	120.0	119.4	112.7	107.5	112.9	117.5	116.5	103
Low 1/4 blood	do.	104.9	106.5	106.5	102.5	96.5	99.4	105.0	104.5	102
Common and braid	do.	102.5	102.5	102.5	97.5	87.5	90.0	97.5	97.5	100
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	180.0	180.8	181.0	173.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	159.0	92
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	147.9	148.0	144.0	142.5	132.5	133.1	140.0	138.0	97
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.5	120.5	119.6	112.2	113.5	114.6	119.1	113.8	101
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	112.8	113.2	112.1	105.7	103.6	113.8	110.6	107.6	102
Low 1/4 blood	do.	106.3	106.5	106.5	102.5	93.5	99.4	105.0	103.3	101
Common and braid	do.	101.0	101.0	101.0	97.5	87.5	90.0	97.5	97.5	100
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	180.5	182.5	182.5	177.5	162.5	162.5	162.5	156.5	88
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	167.5	167.5	167.5	162.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	143.5	88
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	155.8	156.0	157.0	152.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	133.5	88
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	182.5	182.5	182.5	177.5	167.5	157.5	152.5	152.5	86
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	177.9	177.5	177.5	172.5	162.5	152.5	147.5	147.5	86
64's combing	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	162.5	157.5	147.5	142.5	142.5	88
58's, 60's combing	do.	146.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	137.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	89
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	125.5	125.5	125.5	124.0	134.1	127.8	121.8	120.5	97
1's (56's)	do.	111.0	111.0	111.0	114.1	123.9	118.2	113.1	112.0	98
2's (50's)	do.	104.5	104.5	104.5	106.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	99
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	100
4's (44's)	do.	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	92.9	94.5	94.5	94.5	109
5's (40's)	do.	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	92.9	94.5	94.5	94.5	109
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 3/	do.	32.6	33.2	34.0	34.2	34.1	34.2	34.2	33.6	98
Man-made staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 4/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	100
Acetate, 5 denier 4/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	37.0	109
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	170.0	170.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	100
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	180.0	180.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	100
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	190.0	180.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	100
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	185.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	100
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ Not available.
2/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
3/ Average of 10 markets.
4/ From Textile Organon.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 14, 1955

SUMMARY

Generally lower wool prices in the last several months than a year earlier, both here and abroad, reflect the slightly larger world supply and easier demand. Prices at the British Dominion auctions have been below a year earlier since last September. Early in April, prices of fine wools at the auctions ranged from 10 percent to 15 percent below a year earlier. Prices of crossbreds ranged from about the same as to about 5 percent lower.

Quotations for domestic wools at Boston were from about the same as to about 20 cents per pound, clean basis, lower, with most descriptions below a year earlier. Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool at mid-March, the last month of the 1954 marketing season, averaged 50.1 cents per pound, grease basis, 2.3 cents lower than the same month of 1954.

With growers' returns under the 1955 program to be supported by means of payments instead of loans as in recent years, prices of domestic wools will be a reflection largely of world supply and demand and will seek their own level in the market under current tariff protection. It appears likely that prices received by growers for shorn wool in the open market during the 1955 season will average considerably lower than the national average incentive level of 62 cents. The average of prices received during the 1954 marketing year was 53.9 cents. The payment to the individual producer will be based on the percentage of the average price received by all growers needed to bring this average up to the support level. This percentage will be applied to the average price received by each producer. Therefore, the higher the price received by the individual producer in the open market, the greater his payment will be.

Domestic production this year is not likely to differ much from the total of 276.1 million pounds of 1954. Last year's total consisted of 232.6 million pounds of shorn wool and 43.5 million pounds of pulled wool, or roughly 135 million pounds, clean.

Domestic mills consumed 14 percent more apparel wool during the first 2 months of 1955 than a year earlier. With economic activity and consumer purchasing power expected to continue at least at present levels, it appears likely that domestic mills will use a little more apparel wool this year than the 268 million pounds, scoured basis, of last year. Mill use of carpet wool early this year was 3 percent above a year earlier.

World consumption of wool during 1954 is estimated to have been about 2,532 million pounds, clean. This is 4 percent less than in 1953, but except for 1950 and 1953, it is higher than for any other postwar year and about 22 percent above prewar. It was the same as estimated production during the 1953-54 season.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1953 Dec.	1954 Jan.	1954 Feb.	1954 Mar.	1955 Dec.	1955 Jan.	1955 Feb. 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds								
Dutiable 2/		7.9	8.9	6.8	10.0	7.2	11.2		126
60's and finer	do	6.0	5.9	3.5	5.9	4.3	7.3		124
56's -60's	do		.6	1.0	1.1	.6	1.4		233
50's -56's	do	1.1	1.3	.8	1.1	.4	.8		62
44's -50's	do		.1	.3	.5	.3	.3		300
40's -44's	do	.2	.2	.4	.4	.8	.3		150
Not finer than 40's	do	.5	.6	.6	.8	.4	.8		133
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do	.1	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2		100
Duty - free	do	4.7	7.8	7.1	7.2	6.6	7.6		97
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.1	4.2	4.5		122
Not finer than 40's	do	1.3	4.1	3.8	4.1	2.4	3.1		76
Accumulated since January 1									
Dutiable 2/	do	165.6	8.9	15.6	25.6	103.8	11.2		126
60's and finer	do	102.6	5.9	9.5	15.4	56.9	7.3		124
56's -60's	do		.6	1.6	2.7	14.5	1.4		233
50's -56's	do	28.8	1.3	2.0	3.2	11.5	.8		62
44's -50's	do		.1	.4	.9	4.6	.3		300
40's -44's	do	9.8	.2	.5	.9	5.5	.3		150
Not finer than 40's	do	21.7	.6	1.3	2.1	9.0	.8		133
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do	2.7	.2	.3	.4	1.7	.2		100
Duty - free	do	128.6	7.8	14.9	22.1	102.2	7.6		97
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do	69.1	3.7	7.0	10.1	55.7	4.5		122
Not finer than 40's	do	59.5	4.1	7.9	12.0	46.5	3.1		76
Imports for consumption, actual weight									
Dutiable	do	12.0	14.1	10.4	15.8	11.1	17.2		122
Duty - free	do	6.3	11.0	10.4	10.5	9.1	10.6		96
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/									
Per week, during month 4/									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	4,118	4,663	4,934	4,904	4,620	5,337	5,625	114
60's and finer	do	2,199	2,455	2,548	2,716	2,629	2,995	3,025	119
50's up to 60's	do	1,311	1,568	1,642	1,518	1,457	1,741	1,927	117
48's and coarser	do	608	640	744	670	534	601	673	90
Carpet (duty - free foreign)	do	2,137	2,460	2,447	2,348	2,238	2,490	2,549	104
Accumulated since January 1									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	359.1	18.7	38.4	62.9	267.8	21.3	43.8	114
60's and finer	do	183.2	9.8	20.0	33.6	144.9	12.0	24.1	120
50's up to 60's	do	128.6	6.3	12.9	20.4	87.9	7.0	14.7	114
48's and coarser	do	47.3	2.6	5.5	8.9	35.0	2.3	5.0	91
Carpet (duty - free foreign)	do	135.9	9.8	19.6	31.4	114.8	10.0	20.2	103
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards								
Accumulated since January 1									
Apparel fabrics		290.6			54.8	255.5			88
Government orders	do	19.5			1.0	2.5			13
Men's and boys' wear	do	130.6			26.4	118.7			91
Women's and children's wear	do	140.5			27.4	134.3			96
Non-apparel fabrics	do	47.3			7.9	24.6			52
Blanketing	do	28.7			4.5	13.7			48
Other non-apparel fabrics	do	18.6			3.4	10.9			59
Total woven fabrics	do	337.9			62.7	280.1			83

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices of Wool in Foreign Markets Continue Below a Year Earlier

Prices of wool at the Dominion auctions have fluctuated within relatively narrow ranges since February. Prices began to decline at the opening auctions last September, and except for temporary interruptions, continued to decline until early January of this year. They advanced a little late in January.

Prices at the auctions have been below a year earlier since the opening of the selling season last September. Early in April, prices of fine wools ranged from a little less than 10 percent to almost 15 percent below a year earlier. Prices of crossbreds ranged from about the same as to about 5 percent below a year earlier. An indication of recent changes can be obtained from the prices of Dominion wools at the London auctions in table 1.

Most Boston Quotations Lower Than Year Ago

Early in April, quotations for Australian wools were 15 to 25 cents per pound, clean basis, lower than a year earlier. Duty-paid prices ranged from 10 to 15 percent lower than in early April 1954. Quotations declined from last November through January of this year. There has been no change since early February.

Quotations for 56's and finer Montevideo wools also were lower in early April than a year earlier. Advances ranging from 7 to 13 cents per pound, clean, during April-August of 1954 were followed by declines of from 10 to 15 cents per pound. Price quotations for 50's and 46/48's were unchanged from a year earlier. But 4's (44's) and 5's (40's) were quoted at 8 cents above a year earlier.

Prices of Buenos Aires 5's (40's) and 5/6's (40's/36's) were slightly higher than early in April 1954 but a little lower than last July-August.

Most domestic half-blood and finer wools were quoted lower than a year earlier (table 2). Prices for three-eighths blood and lower descriptions were about the same as or a little lower. During the 1954 marketing season, quotations for most domestic descriptions were above 1954 program loan rates until early November and below thereafter.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1953-55

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1953						
January 18	185.2	143.0	107.8	89.1	86.7	84.4
January 23	183.0	134.9	93.9	80.9	77.4	75.1
February 20	190.3	141.0	101.0	85.7	82.2	78.7
March 20	193.5	146.6	107.9	89.1	86.8	84.4
March 27	197.1	147.8	107.9	93.8	90.3	89.1
May 8	202.7	152.3	110.2	93.8	90.2	89.1
May 15	211.1	157.2	110.2	93.8	90.3	89.1
July 10	201.8	150.2	103.2	89.2	85.6	83.3
July 25	197.1	150.2	106.8	92.7	88.0	85.7
September 18	188.9	143.4	110.8	100.3	93.3	89.8
October 2	192.5	149.3	114.3	105.0	95.7	93.3
November 27	187.5	146.5	109.0	98.4	92.6	91.4
December 11	187.4	146.4	105.4	94.9	90.2	89.0
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1
September 10	164.9	140.3	---	98.2	91.2	90.0
September 17	172.7	144.7	---	100.4	94.5	92.2
November 26	155.7	122.0	---	87.2	83.7	81.3
December 10	156.9	119.7	104.6	90.6	86.0	83.7
1955						
January 14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January 21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7
February 18	155.3	121.7	110.1	93.9	89.3	88.1
February 25	155.6	124.3	110.3	95.2	91.8	90.6
March 25	153.6	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
April 1	149.0	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau Market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended April 8, 1955 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1954 week ended Apr. 9	1955 week ended Feb.11	1955 week ended Apr. 8	Percent change week ended April 8, from Average 1947-49	Percent change week ended April 8, from Apr. 9, 1954	Percent change week ended April 8, from Feb.11, 1955
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	167.5	155.0	151.5	- 0.1	- 9.6	- 2.3
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	152.5	145.0	140.0	+ 2.1	- 8.2	- 3.4
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	127.5	130.0	122.5	+12.3	- 3.9	- 5.8
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	113.5	117.5	112.5	+12.5	- .9	- 4.3
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	102.5	105.0	105.0	+16.8	+ 2.4	0
Common and braid	83.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	+16.8	0	0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	172.5	167.5	155.0	+ .3	-10.1	- 7.5
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	142.5	140.0	137.5	+ 4.5	- 3.5	- 1.8
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	114.5	119.0	112.5	+ 9.0	- 1.7	- 5.5
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	108.0	110.0	107.0	+10.3	- .9	- 2.7
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	102.5	105.0	102.5	+30.7	0	- 2.4
Common and braid	73.4	97.5	97.5	97.5	+32.8	0	0
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	177.5	162.5	155.0	+ 2.7	-12.7	- 4.6
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	162.5	147.5	142.5	+17.8	-12.3	- 3.4
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	152.5	137.5	132.5	+19.6	-13.1	- 3.6

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Farm Prices of Wool Last Season Averaged Slightly Lower Than in 1953

Prices received by growers for shorn wool during the marketing year April 1954-March 1955 averaged 53.9 cents per pound, grease basis (table 3). This was 1 cent below the average for the 1953 marketing season but 0.7 cent above the national average support level under the 1954 wool support program. The seasonal averages for the individual States ranged from 45 cents in Oklahoma to 61 cents in Montana. The great variation among the averages for the individual States reflects differences in the wools produced with respect to clean fiber yield, grade, staple, color, etc., which determine market value, in size of individual clips, in marketing practices and the time of marketing, in location with respect to consuming centers, and so forth.

The national average at mid-March, the last month of the season, was 50.1 cents, 2.3 cents lower than a year earlier. The mid-month averages were below a year earlier each month during the 1954 marketing season. The lower prices last season reflected a slightly larger world supply and an easier demand, particularly in the United States. The national average support level last season was 53.2 cents compared with 53.1 cents for the 1953 marketing season.

1954 Farm Prices for Mohair Averaged Somewhat Lower Than in 1953

Prices received by growers for mohair produced in 1954 averaged 72.3 cents per pound, grease basis. This was 16.3 cents or 18 percent below the average for 1953 (table 4). The decline reflected larger production and easier demand.

Cash Receipts From Shorn Wool Last Year Nearly Same as in 1953

Growers' cash receipts from shorn wool produced in 1954 have been estimated at 125.3 million dollars compared with 126.5 million dollars in 1953. With production up slightly, the slight decline reflected the lower price.

Receipts ranged from 6,000 dollars for Florida to 26,090,000 dollars for Texas which accounted for 19 percent of production and almost 21 percent of total cash receipts.

Cash Receipts From Mohair Declined 11 Percent Last Year

Cash receipts to growers from the 1954 mohair clip are estimated at 9.9 million dollars, a decline of 1.2 million dollars from 1953. The decline in the average pride more than offset the increase in production.

Wool Production in the United States Increased a Little Last Year

Production of shorn and pulled wool in 1954 totaled 276.1 million pounds, consisting of 232.6 million pounds of shorn wool and 43.5 million pounds of pulled wool. Output of both shorn and pulled was slightly larger than in 1953 (table 3). The clean wool equivalent of the total probably was in the neighborhood of 135 million pounds, an increase of about 2 million pounds from 1953.

About 2.2 million pounds or about 1 percent more shorn wool was produced than in 1953. About 27.4 million sheep and lambs were shorn last year compared with 27.8 million in 1953. However, the average fleece weight was a record 8.48 pounds compared with 8.30 in 1953.

The quantity of wool pulled was 3 percent above 1953. Although commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs during 1954 was slightly below 1953, more skins were pulled. The average weight of wool pulled per skin was 3.48 pounds, about the same as in 1953.

The number of stock sheep on farms and ranches at the beginning of this year was about the same as a year earlier. Shorn wool production is likely to be about the same as or even a little larger than in 1954 if the trend toward a heavier fleece weight continues. Sheep and lamb slaughter is expected to be lower this year. Unless the decline is offset by an increase in the proportion of pelts pulled or the average weight of wool per pelt, pulled wool production would be a little lower.

Mohair Production Up 9 Percent Last Year

Production of mohair in the 7 principal producing States in 1954 is estimated at 13.7 million pounds, grease basis, 1.1 million pounds over 1953 (table 4). This was the second increase in succession. Mohair production declined 45 percent between 1945 and 1952.

The increase last year reflected an increase of 8 percent in the number of goats clipped and an increase of almost 2 percent in the average weight per fleece. A total of 2.5 million head of goats were clipped in the 7 States last year compared with 2.3 million in 1953. The average weight per goat clipped was 5.5 pounds, the highest of record.

Production in Texas, which accounted for 93 percent of the goats clipped and 96 percent of the mohair, increased about 9 percent. Oregon was the only State with a decline.

With about 8 percent more goats in Texas early this year than at the beginning of 1954, some further increase in mohair production appears likely.

Table 3.--Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, price per pound received by growers, cash receipts, and wool production, United States, 1940-54

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece	Shorn wool production	Price per pound 2/	Cash receipts 3/	Pulled wool production	Total wool production: As reported	Total wool production: Approximate clean fiber equivalent 4/
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand dollars	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Million pounds
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014	28.4	105,539	62,000	434,014	210.2
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520	35.5	137,754	65,800	453,320	219.9
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297	40.1	155,728	66,700	454,997	220.9
1943	47,892	7.91	378,834	41.6	157,587	65,200	444,043	215.6
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3	143,224	73,500	411,818	204.0
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9	128,970	70,500	378,476	188.4
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3	118,805	61,300	342,208	169.6
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0	105,654	56,600	308,025	153.1
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2	114,055	46,600	278,370	136.9
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4	105,223	35,600	248,499	120.4
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422	62.1	133,729	32,400	247,822	119.1
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545	97.0	218,832	25,900	251,445	118.7
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373	54.1	125,809	33,600	265,973	127.4
1953	27,756	8.30	230,395	5/ 54.9	126,467	42,200	272,595	133.0
1954 6/	27,417	8.48	232,629	5/ 53.9	125,331	43,500	276,129	135.0

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Revised: Beginning with 1943 the average price is for the marketing season April through March. Prior to 1943 average prices relate to the calendar year.
3/ Computed using April-March average prices beginning with 1943 and calendar year averages prior to 1943.
4/ Production as reported converted on basis of 44% yield for shorn wool and 75% yield for pulled wool.
5/ Includes an allowance for wool under loan.
6/ Preliminary.

Table 4.--Number of goats clipped, average clip per goat, price per pound received by growers, cash receipts, and mohair production, in the seven principal producing States, United States, 1940-54 1/

Year	Goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production	Price per pound	Cash receipts
	Thousand	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand dollars
1940	4,297	4.9	21,144	49.7	10,504
1941	4,542	4.8	21,766	56.9	12,389
1942	4,322	4.8	20,676	49.3	10,203
1943	4,276	4.7	20,156	57.1	11,518
1944	4,109	5.0	20,443	60.1	12,295
1945	4,291	5.1	22,008	55.3	12,180
1946	3,939	4.9	19,282	61.1	11,783
1947	3,672	5.0	18,225	53.6	9,772
1948	3,164	5.1	15,972	45.4	7,251
1949	2,558	5.1	12,959	46.3	6,001
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,475	5.2	12,888	118.0	15,183
1952	2,268	5.3	12,116	96.2	11,660
1953	2,307	5.4	12,572	88.6	11,138
1954 3/	2,492	5.5	13,673	72.3	9.888

1/ Arizona, California, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah. A small quantity of mohair is produced in other States but no estimate is made of the quantity.

2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.

3/ Preliminary.

Wool Under Loan

As of February 28, about 38 million pounds of wool, actual weight, were under loan under the 1954 support program. A year earlier, 31 million pounds were under loan under the 1953 program. To be eligible under the 1954 program, wool must have been offered for appraisal not later than February 28.

Loan notes secured by shorn or pulled wool under the 1954 wool price support program mature on April 30, 1955, and are due and payable on that date. Wool serving as security on loan notes not repaid on or before that date will be offered for sale from May 1 through May 14 at the best price obtainable but not lower than the principal amount of the loan note plus interest and charges. Any amount received from such sales in excess of the minimum acceptable will be returned to the grower, pool manager, cooperative marketing association, or pullery.

Wool for which no offers are received or for which prices offered during this period are below the principal amount of the loan note plus interest and charges will be purchased by the Commodity Credit Corporation. As of March 31, CCC still had available for sale about 109 million pounds, actual weight, or about 54 million pounds, clean, of the total of 137 million pounds, actual weight, or about 67 million pounds, clean, acquired under the 1952 and 1953 price support programs. During May-August 1953, wools acquired under the 1952 program were available for sale at not less than 115 percent of the appraisal value under the 1952 program. From September 1, 1953, through June 27, 1954, they were available for sale at the higher of (1) the market value by grade and class as determined each week by USDA or (2) 103 percent of the appraisal value under the 1952 program plus sales commission. Effective from June 28, 1954, through May 1955, wools acquired under both the 1952 and 1953 programs have not been and will not be available for sale at less than 103 percent of the 1954 loan rates plus selling commission.

1954-55 Exports from Southern Hemisphere Lower Than in 1953-54

Total exports from the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere--Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and Uruguay--during the early part of the current selling seasons in those countries were a little lower than in early 1953-54 (table 5). The decline in the total largely reflects a drop of 68 million pounds, or 11 percent, in exports from Australia where a waterfront strike held up shipments in November. Exports from New Zealand were unchanged but those from Uruguay were down about 1 million pounds or 7 percent. Those from the Union of South Africa were up 12 million pounds or 9 percent and those from Argentina were up 14 million pounds.

Imports of Dutiable Wool Up Slightly From Early Last Year

Imports of dutiable wool for consumption during January, 11.2 million pounds, clean content, or 17.2 million pounds, actual weight, were 2.3 million pounds, clean, larger than a year earlier. The January total was the largest since June 1954.

Imports of dutiable wool for consumption during 1954 totaled 104 million pounds, clean content, or 159 million pounds, actual weight as imported. This was 62 million pounds, clean content, or 37 percent less than in 1953 and the least since before World War II. They were equivalent to 39 percent of reported mill consumption compared with 46 percent in 1953. The sharp decline last year reflected the lower consumption and probably some reduction in stocks. The declines relative to 1953 by grade categories were as follows:

Finer than 56's	- 31 million pounds or 30 percent
Finer than 44's but not finer than 56's	- 13 million pounds or 44 percent
Finer than 40's but not finer than 44's	- 4 million pounds or 44 percent
Not finer than 40's and "named" wools	- 14 million pounds or 56 percent

The British Dominions--Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa--accounted for 70 percent of total imports of dutiable wool compared with 48 percent in 1953 (table 6).

Imports of Duty-free Wool

Imports of wool entered free of duty amounted to 7.6 million pounds, clean content, during January of this year. These imports were for use in the manufacture of floor coverings, knit or felt boots, and heavy fulled lumbermen's socks. The total was only slightly less than the quantity imported a year earlier.

Imports of such wools for consumption during 1954 amounted to 102 million pounds, clean content, or 145 million pounds, actual weight. The total consisted of 56 million pounds, clean, of "named" wools and 46 million pounds, clean, of wools not finer than 40's. The 1954 quantity was 26 million pounds, clean, or 21 percent lower than the quantity imported in 1953. Imports of "named" wools were 19 percent lower and of wools not finer than 40's were 22 percent lower. The decline reflected lower consumption and a reduction in stocks.

Table 5.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1952-53, 1953-54, and 1954-55 seasons through December 1/

Exporting country	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia 2/	609	630	562
New Zealand	110	128	128
Union of South Africa 2/	129	135	147
Argentina	142	22	36
Uruguay	53	14	13

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay. 2/ Through January.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 6.- Percentage distribution of United States imports of wool by country of origin, 1952-54

Country	Duty-free			Dutiable			Total		
	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Australia	0.1	0.1	1/	37.6	28.0	40.9	25.4	15.8	20.6
New Zealand	14.7	9.1	9.3	22.1	13.8	15.6	19.7	11.7	12.5
Union of South Africa	.4	.8	1.1	9.8	6.7	13.3	6.7	4.1	7.2
Argentina	27.2	47.3	44.3	12.0	29.7	14.0	16.9	37.4	29.0
Uruguay	.1	.1	1/	12.9	17.4	11.4	8.8	9.8	5.8
Other countries	57.5	42.6	45.3	5.6	4.4	4.8	22.5	21.2	24.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Less than 0.05 percent.
Derived from reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

Table 7.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1947-54

Item	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,142	2,135	2,185	2,245	2,323	2,354	2,520	2,530
Consumption	2,450	2,574	2,449	2,681	2,277	2,352	2/2,641	2/2,532

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year.
2/ Preliminary. 3/ Forecast.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

World Consumption Declined Last Year

World consumption of wool during 1954 is tentatively estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee at 2,532 million pounds, clean. This is 4 percent less than in 1953, and except for 1950 and 1953, higher than for any other postwar year and about 22 percent above prewar (table 7). It was about the same as the CEC estimate of production during 1953-54. The Foreign Agricultural Service estimates that world production during 1954 was 5 to 20 million pounds, clean, larger than the CEC estimate of consumption during 1954.

Aggregate consumption in the 11 countries 1/ which supply the Commonwealth Economic Committee with estimates was 109 million pounds, clean, or 10 percent lower than in 1953. This largely reflected the sharp decline in the United States. It is estimated that the decline in the total for the 11 countries was partly offset by an increase of 9 percent in the rest of the world, the estimate for which is based on estimates of available supplies for some countries and on wool textile production for others. Changes relative to 1953 range from an increase of 4 percent in Australia to a decline of 32 percent in Canada.

Consumption of other materials by the wool textile industries of the 11 countries was up 5 percent from 1953.

Consumption of Apparel Wool Up Somewhat From Early 1954

Domestic mills consumed 14 percent more apparel wool during the first two months of 1955 than a year earlier. February was the fourth successive month during which the rate of consumption was higher than a year earlier. The February rate was about 6 percent above that of January and was the highest since August 1954 (table 8). The rate was below a year earlier from September 1953 through October 1954.

The rate of consumption declined sharply late in 1953 when retail sales were lower than anticipated and ratios of inventories to sales of manufactures were relatively high. It improved gradually through August and then declined seasonally. The reported total for last year was about one-fourth lower than in 1953. The declines by grade categories were as follows:

60's and finer - 21 percent
50's up to 60's - 32 percent
48's and coarser - 26 percent

1/ Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany (Fed. Rep.), Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.

Table 8.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-55

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,663	4,934	4,904	5,434	5,760	5,617	5,325	5,940	4,962	5,012	4,761	4,620
Carpet	2,460	2,447	2,348	2,309	2,080	1,857	1,476	2,313	2,316	2,376	2,293	2,238
Total	7,123	7,381	7,252	7,743	7,840	7,474	6,801	8,253	7,278	7,388	7,054	6,858
1955												
Apparel	5,337	5,625										
Carpet	2,490	2,549										
Total	7,827	8,174										

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

The average weekly rate of production of top and noil (consumption on the worsted system) last year was down 30 percent, while the quantity used on the woolen system was down 16 percent (table 10).

Consumption of Carpet Wool Up Slightly From Early 1954

Use of carpet wool (duty-free foreign) by domestic mills during January-February was up almost 3 percent from a year earlier. The rate during February was about 4 percent higher than a year earlier, about 2 percent above January, and the highest since August 1953. Consumption of other fiber in the spinning of carpet yarn during January-February was up 43 percent (table 11).

February was the fifth successive month during which the rate of consumption was above a year earlier. It was below a year earlier from September 1953 through September 1954. Total consumption last year was almost one-sixth below that of 1953. Consumption of other fiber in the spinning of carpet yarn was down less than one-tenth.

Less Woolen and Worsted Fabric Produced Last Year

A total of 280 million linear yards of woolen and worsted fabric (fabric containing by weight 50 percent or more wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool) was woven last year. In 1953, 338 million yards were produced. The decline of 16 percent in the average weekly rate of production reflected declines of 87 percent in Government orders, 7 percent in men's and boys' wear fabrics, 3 percent in women's and children's wear fabrics, and 47 percent in non-apparel fabric (table 12).

Production of all categories was below a year earlier during each of the first three quarters of the year (table 13). The total yardage during the fourth quarter, however, was 11 percent above a year earlier: men's wear fabric was up 22 percent; women's wear fabric was 13 percent larger; but non-apparel fabric production was down 26 percent. The fourth quarter yardage was larger than that for each of the other three quarters.

Production of woven felt last year was nearly the same as in 1953. It was above a year earlier during the first quarter but below during the other three quarters. The poundage produced during the fourth quarter was a little larger than that of the third quarter, but was lower than that produced during both the first and second quarters.

Mixed Trends in Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Early This Year

During January-February, 16 percent more regular-weight suits and 14 percent more separate trousers were cut than a year earlier. But 16 percent less summer-weight suits and 2 percent fewer overcoats and topcoats were cut (table 14).

Table 9.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, 1946-54

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	54.8	62.2	62.6	54.6	56.3	58.5	51.2	51.0	54.1
50's up to 60's	31.3	25.6	26.9	35.4	34.5	32.8	35.8	35.8	32.9
48's and coarser	13.9	12.2	10.5	10.0	9.2	8.7	13.0	13.2	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1946-54

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	56.9	64.0	65.8	59.1	67.3	58.9	53.9	57.3	52.8
Woolen	43.1	36.0	34.2	40.9	32.7	41.1	46.1	42.7	47.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-55

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	73.5	75.1	76.2	75.2	74.8	72.0	69.3	71.0	73.5	70.4	72.1	72.4	73.1
1955	67.2	67.8											
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.9	3.4	2.0	1.9	2.8	2.5	1.9	2.2
1955	1.5	1.6											
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.3	7.5	8.3	6.7	7.3	8.9	9.3	9.7	9.0	7.6	7.7	8.2	8.0
1955	9.0	8.3											
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.2	14.4	12.3	14.5	14.8	15.9	17.6	16.4	14.8	17.4	16.6	16.6	15.6
1955	21.6	21.5											
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1
1954	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.8	1.1	0.9	1.1
1955	0.7	0.8											

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, 1951-54 1/

Fabric	1951 (52 weeks)	1952 (52 weeks)	1953 (53 weeks)	1954 2/ (52 weeks)	Percentage change in weekly average rate-1954 from 1952	Percentage change in weekly average rate-1954 from 1953
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	375,400	351,359	337,911	280,143	-20.3	-15.5
Apparel	316,411	307,951	290,652	255,507	-17.0	-10.4
Government orders	103,885	63,658	19,538	2,537	-96.0	-86.8
Other than Government orders	212,526	244,293	271,114	252,970	+ 3.6	- 4.9
Men's and boys'	105,075	108,734	130,624	3/118,673	+ 9.1	- 7.4
Woolen	35,839	50,196	57,494	50,943	+ 1.5	- 9.7
Worsted	69,236	58,538	73,130	61,017	+ 4.2	-15.0
Women's and children's	107,451	135,559	140,490	3/134,297	- .9	- 2.6
Woolen	85,229	115,317	117,310	108,037	- 6.3	- 6.1
Worsted	22,222	20,242	23,180	16,131	-20.3	-29.1
Non-apparel	58,989	43,408	47,259	24,636	-43.2	-46.9
Blanketing	31,408	24,334	28,690	13,743	-43.5	-51.2
Government orders	16,512	8,599	8,092	4/	---	---
Other than Government orders	14,896	15,735	20,598	4/	---	---
Other non-apparel	27,581	19,074	18,569	10,893	-42.9	-40.2
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent
Woven felt	11,342	8,481	10,091	9,860	+16.2	- 0.4

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available. 4/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States during 1954 as percent of 1953

Fabric	Jan.-March	April-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	72.8	73.2	84.3	106.5
Apparel	75.4	77.9	92.0	110.7
Government orders	11.7	14.6	13.7	13.4
Other than Government orders	83.5	81.0	95.7	117.5
Men's and boys'	79.9	74.3	96.0	122.5
Woolen	67.6	72.8	90.2	136.6
Worsted	80.4	66.7	90.4	103.6
Women's and children's	87.3	88.3	95.5	112.9
Woolen	80.3	84.9	93.0	112.2
Worsted	86.8	65.1	60.2	71.1
Non-apparel	58.9	44.3	39.1	73.8
Blanketing	61.5	43.6	36.7	52.4
Government orders	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other than Government orders	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other non-apparel	55.9	45.3	43.7	126.0
Woven felt	115.9	96.7	88.8	92.1

1/ Not available.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Information as to the fiber content of the fabric used is available for summer-weight suits and separate trousers. For both, wool fabric (fabric containing 50 percent or more wool) accounted for a larger proportion than early last year (table 15). For summer-weight suits, the decline in cuttings from wool fabrics - 8 percent - was somewhat less than the decline for other fabrics - 20 percent. For separate trousers, the increase in cuttings from wool fabrics - 19 percent - was larger than that for other fabrics - 11 percent.

More Women's Outerwear Cut Than Early Last Year

Cuttings of most items of women's outerwear during January-February of this year were up from a year earlier (table 16). The increases ranged from 3.5 percent for unit-priced dresses to 17.6 percent for skirts. However, 7.4 percent fewer coats were cut.

For all items for which information as to fiber content of the fabric used is available, fewer garments were cut from rayon and acetate fabric (table 17). The declines ranged from 6.4 percent for unit-priced dresses to 20.1 percent for suits. Increases in cuttings from other fabrics, including wool, ranged from 18.0 percent for unit-priced dresses to 52.0 percent for suits.

THE 1955 WOOL AND MOHAIR PROGRAMS 1/

The 1955 wool and mohair programs were set up pursuant to the National Wool Act of 1954, which was enacted by the 83rd Congress and includes the following among its provisions:

1. Prices of wool and mohair marketed during the period beginning April 1, 1955, and ending March 31, 1959, shall be supported by means of loans, purchases, payments, or other operations.

2. The incentive price for shorn wool shall be at such level, not to exceed 110 percent of parity, as the Secretary, after consultation with producer representatives, and after taking into consideration prices paid and other cost conditions affecting sheep production, determines to be necessary in order to encourage an annual production of approximately 300 million pounds of shorn wool, grease basis.

3. The support price for pulled wool shall be at such a level, in relation to the support level for shorn wool, as will maintain normal marketing practices.

4. The support price for mohair shall be at such level, in relationship to the incentive price for shorn wool, as is necessary to maintain approximately the same percentage of parity for mohair as for shorn wool. The deviation of the mohair support price shall not be calculated so as to cause it to rise or fall more than 15 percent above or below the comparable percentage of parity at which shorn wool is supported.

1/ This article is intended for those desiring general information relating to the programs. Those desiring more detailed information should contact the Livestock and Dairy Division, Commodity Stabilization Service, Washington 25, D. C. The grower's point of contact is his local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office.

Table 14.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-February 1953-55

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change in weekly average rate - 1955 from	
	1953 (9 weeks)	1954 (8 weeks)	1955 (8 weeks)	1953	1954
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Pct.	Pct.
Suits, total	4,088	3,572	3,664	+0.8	+2.6
Regular - weight	2,881	2,060	2,388	-6.8	+15.9
50 percent or more wool	2,587	---	---	---	---
Other	294	---	---	---	---
Summer - weight	1,207	1,512	1,276	+18.9	-15.6
50 percent or more wool	421	588	540	-44.2	-8.2
Man-made fibers	752	884	676	+1.1	-23.5
Other	34	40	60	+102.7	+50.0
Separate dress and sport trousers	10,314	9,360	10,656	+16.2	+13.8
50 percent or more wool	2,995	2,976	3,552	+33.4	+19.4
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	6,509)	6,384	7,104	+9.2	+11.3
Chiefly cotton	810)				
Overcoats and topcoats	738	597	584	-11.0	-2.2

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1952-55

Type of garment	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Suits				
Regular - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	92.4	89.8	---	---
Other	7.6	10.2	---	---
Summer - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.5	34.9	38.9	42.3
Man-made fibers	66.3	62.3	58.5	53.0
Other	3.2	2.8	2.6	4.7
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.1	29.0	31.8	33.3
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	65.8	63.1)	68.2	66.7
Chiefly cotton	4.1	7.9)		

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.--Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses' and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1954-55

Type of garment	1954	1955	Percentage change 1955 from 1954
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (Unit-priced)	21,055	21,788	+ 3.5
Rayon and acetate	12,550	11,751	- 6.4
Other	8,505	10,037	+ 18.0
Skirts	12,000	14,112	+ 17.6
Rayon and acetate	5,880	5,364	- 8.8
Other	6,120	8,748	+ 42.9
Suits	3,413	3,603	+ 5.6
Rayon and acetate	2,197	1,755	- 20.1
Other	1,216	1,848	+ 52.0
Coats	4,642	4,297	- 7.4
Blouses	28,776	30,732	+ 6.8
Cotton	18,060	18,828	+ 4.3
Other	10,716	11,904	+ 11.1

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.--Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses' and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1954-55

Type of garment	1954	1955
	Percent	Percent
Dresses (Unit-priced)	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	59.6	53.9
Other	40.4	46.1
Skirts	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	49.0	38.0
Other	51.0	62.0
Suits	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	64.4	48.7
Other	35.6	51.3
Blouses	100.0	100.0
Cotton	62.8	61.3
Other	37.2	38.7

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

5. No price support shall be made available, other than payments, at a level in excess of 90 percent of parity.

6. If payments are utilized, payments shall be such as is determined sufficient, when added to the national average price received, to give producers a national average return for the commodity equal to the support price level.

a. The total of payments shall not at any time exceed an amount equal to 70 percent of accumulated totals as of the same date, of gross receipts from specific duties collected on and after January 1, 1953, on all articles subject to duty under Schedule 11 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

b. Wool and mohair produced prior to January 1, 1955, shall not be the subject of payments.

c. Payments may be made to producers through the marketing agency to or through whom the producer marketed his wool or mohair, provided that such marketing agency agrees to receive and promptly distribute the payments on behalf of the producers.

d. Payments to any producer need not be made if the amount of the payments to the producer or all producers is too small to justify the cost of making such payments.

In line with these provisions, the national average incentive price for shorn wool under the 1955 program, the first under the Act, was established at 62 cents per pound, grease basis, to the producer. This is equivalent to 106 percent of the parity price for shorn wool as of September 15, 1954. It is 8.8 cents or 16.5 percent higher than the national average loan rate (support level) under the 1954 program and 15 percent above the national average of prices received by growers for shorn wool during the 1954 marketing season. The national average support levels for the 1950 through 1954 programs were equivalent to 90 percent of the parity price for shorn wool as of March 15.

The national average support level for mohair was established at 70 cents per pound, grease basis, to the grower. This is equivalent to 91 percent of the parity price for mohair as of September 15, 1954. It is 5.7 cents or 8.9 percent above the support level under the 1954 program, but it is 2.3 cents below the average of prices received during the 1954 marketing season. Under the programs from 1950 through 1954, the national average support levels ranged from 74.1 percent of the March 15 parity price in 1950 to 83 percent for the 1954 program.

Under the 1955 program, wool and mohair will be supported by payments to producers. Support for shorn wool under the 1950 and 1951 programs and for pulled wool and mohair under the 1950, 1951, and 1952 programs was affected through purchases, when necessary. The programs for shorn wool for 1952 through 1954 and for pulled wool and mohair for 1953 and 1954 operated through loans. These programs were carried out under the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

The 1955 program will allow prices of domestic wool and mohair to seek their own level in the market under current tariff protection. It will enable domestic wool and mohair to move into consumption when world market prices are below support levels and to compete more freely on a price basis with man-made and other natural fibers.

Payments for shorn wool will be based on the percentage needed to bring the national average of prices received by all producers as reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service up to the incentive level. The payment to the individual producer will be an amount equal to this percent applied to the net proceeds from the sale of his wool in the open market. For example, if the national average of prices received should turn out to be 50 cents per pound, each producer would receive a payment equal to 24 percent of the net sale value of his wool (62 cents - 50 cents = 12; 12 is 24 percent of 50). Under these conditions, the producer who received an average of 70 cents per pound on 1,000 pounds or a total of $700 in the open market would receive a payment of 16.8 cents per pound (24 percent of 70) or a total of $168 on his 1,000 pounds of wool. The producer who received 40 cents per pound in the open market would receive a payment of 9.6 cents (24 percent of 40) per pound or $96 on 1,000 pounds. Thus, it is to the advantage of the individual producer to improve the quality and marketing of his wool to obtain the best possible price in the open market. Mohair payments will be determined in a similar manner.

Pulled wool will be supported through payments on lambs and yearlings (young ovine animals with not more than one pair of permanent teeth in full wear) with full wool pelts marketed for slaughter. Only lambs and yearlings which have never been shorn or have a 1½ inch growth of wool at the time of sale for slaughter (or when slaughtered, if the applicant is a slaughterer) will be considered as having full wool pelts. The payments will be at a flat rate per hundredweight of live animal based on an average of 5 pounds of wool per hundredweight of live animal and 80 percent of the difference between the national average price received for shorn wool and 62 cents, the incentive or support price for shorn wool. In short, the payment per hundredweight of live animal will be equal to 4 times the average payment per pound of shorn wool. For example, under the conditions assumed to illustrate the calculation of payments on shorn wool, the payment per hundredweight of live animal would be 48 cents (4 x 12 cents).

The 1955 program will apply to wool and mohair shorn on or after January 1, 1955, and marketed during the year beginning April 1, 1955, and ending on March 31, 1956. The wool and mohair may be sold to a private dealer, through a cooperative association or a wool pool, or any other wool buying agency. The pulled wool compensating payments will apply to lambs and yearlings marketed during the same period. Payments will be made as soon after the end of the marketing year as possible.

Producers must apply for payment to local county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee offices. The application should be filed as soon as possible after the marketing of the wool, mohair, or lambs and yearlings and must be filed not later than 30 days after the closing of the marketing year in which the marketing occurred. Application for payment under the 1955 program must be filed not later than April 30, 1956. The application must be accompanied by the account sales or sales documents received by the producers when marketing their wool and mohair and their lambs and yearlings.

To be eligible for payments on shorn wool, the applicant (producer of sheep and lambs or feeder of sheep and lambs who shears his animals) must certify among other things: (a) That the wool as well as the sheep and lambs from which it was shorn was owned by him at the time of shearing; (b) the sheep and lambs were owned by him for not less than 30 days; and (c) that he had beneficial interest in the wool from the time the wool was shorn up to the time of its sale. A grower has beneficial interest in the wool (1) when he is the full owner thereof without anybody else being entitled to the wool or its proceeds and without his having authorized anybody to sell or otherwise dispose of the wool, or (2) if he has authorized another person to sell or otherwise dispose of the wool, even transferring legal title to such other person, the grower continues to be entitled to the proceeds of the wool upon such sale or other disposal. To be eligible for payments on lambs and yearlings, the applicant (producer, feeder, or slaughterer) must certify among other things that he owned the lambs and yearlings for not less than 30 days.

Under certain conditions growers will be permitted to assign payments due them as collateral for loans or advances. Assignments will be permitted to financing or marketing agencies as security for cash advanced or to be advanced on sheep, lambs, wool, or mohair. The grower will be permitted to make only one assignment of his payment, and this must be filed with his Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation county office.

MILL USE OF APPAREL WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE WORLD WAR II

by

Albert M. Hermie

Analysis of trends in mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States is complicated by many factors. First, mill consumption is defined at present by the Bureau of the Census as "the sum of top and noil production" on the worsted system and "when laid in mixes" on the woolen system. Consumption so defined tends to understate consumer takings since the United States is normally a net importer of wool manufactures. Further, consumption at this stage could and undoubtedly does differ from consumer takings due also to changes in inventories of "consumed" wool in manufacturing and distribution channels. These inventory movements reflect stocking and destocking operations of manufacturers and distributors. Both the direction and the magnitude of the difference for any period would depend on the phase or phases of the inventory cycle covered by the period. With the cycle apparently varying and considerably longer than a year in duration, the difference in any one year could be substantial. 1/

1/ Theoretically the relationship between consumer takings and mill use during any period would be expressed by the following equation:

$$y = x + (t_i - t_e) + (u_b - u_e),$$

where y = consumer takings,

x = mill consumption,

t_i = imports of wool advanced beyond the stage at which it is considered as consumed,

t_e = exports of wool advanced beyond the stage at which it is considered as consumed,

u_b = inventories of "consumed" wool at beginning of period,

u_e = inventories of "consumed" wool at end of period,

all expressed in terms of a common unit--for example, pounds of wool, clean content.

It would appear logical to conclude that analyses of both year to year changes and long term trends in mill consumption should deal not only with factors affecting changes in consumer takings but also with the factors associated with changes in net imports and in inventories of "consumed" wool.

However, non-comparability of data due to changes in coverage and changes and lack of uniformity in definition, error, and lack of data and other information impose important limitations on the nature and scope of such analyses and on the reliability and usefulness of the results. The relationship between reported mill consumption and mill consumption derived from reported stock, production, import, and export data varies considerably from year to year. The discrepancy, for which adjustment cannot be made because information is too meager or non-existent, is substantial in some years. In 1953, for example, it was equivalent to 14 percent of reported mill consumption. The net effect over the years, although not for all individual years, has been an excess of reported over derived mill use.

Available data on imports and exports of wool beyond the stage at which it is considered as consumed relate to manufactures wholly or in chief value of wool and similar hair. Various units of measure are used--pound, yard, number of articles, dollar value. Estimates of the wool equivalent of the foreign trade balance of wool manufactures based on these data would, at best, be very rough approximations. Available information on inventories of "consumed" wool is too limited to permit even a rough guess as to the amount of wool involved.

The Decline in Mill Consumption

Reported statistics on mill use of apparel wool indicate a sharp decline over the last 9 years. Average annual mill consumption during the last 3 years (1952-54) was only three-fifths that of 1946-48. Although it was one-sixth above prewar (1935-39), the increase was somewhat less than the increase in population. Consumption per person was 46 percent below 1946-48 and 6 percent below prewar. In terms of per capita derived mill use (computed domestic disappearance), the declines were a little larger.

Since mill consumption as reported by the Bureau of the Census includes wool to be processed into military as well as civilian items, trends in the total represent the net effect of the various factors which affect mill use for both types of items. Precise estimates of the quantities used for civilian goods are not available, but such information as is available suggests that the lower average per capita use during the last 3 years than during both 1946-48 and 1935-39 is a reflection of a lower per capita mill use for civilian goods. The following, although very rough approximations, give some indication as to the probable change per capita:

1935-39 average - 2.15 pounds
1946-48 average - 3.70 pounds
1952-54 average - 1.85 pounds

The two outstanding features of these estimates are a sharp decline from 1946-48 to 1952-54 and a much more moderate decline between 1935-39 and 1952-54.

The downward trend during the postwar period has taken place during a period of generally rising economic activity and consumer purchasing power. The more important factors which affected consumption in this period are discussed in the next few paragraphs.

(1) Mill consumption for civilian goods following the end of hostilities in 1945 was unusually high. The increase over 1935-39 was out of proportion to the increase in consumer purchasing power. While disposable income per person, after adjustment for price changes, during 1946-48 averaged less than 50 percent above prewar, mill consumption per person averaged over 70 percent higher. The unusually high level of mill use reflected the replenishment of civilian wardrobes, particularly those of returning servicemen, household needs, and inventories in manufacturing and distribution channels, substantial wartime savings and high level of current income, export demand, and the fact that wool products were more readily available than some other items. Although normally a net importer, the United States was a net exporter during 1946-47 because of UNRRA shipments and substantial commercial exports. The large commercial shipments reflected the deferred backlog of demand abroad resulting from wartime shortages and the inability of the foreign textile industries to meet this demand.

(2) Imports of wool manufactures increased. The United States is normally a net importer of manufactures of wool. With the exception of the years mentioned above, imports have exceeded exports for all years under consideration. The excess of imports over exports has increased substantially in recent years (tables 1a and 2a).

Available information does not permit a precise determination of the wool equivalent of the difference between imports and exports of manufactures on the same basis for which mill consumption is reported. Available data relate to manufactures wholly or in chief value of wool and similar hair, expressed in pounds, yards, articles, or value. The data suggest, however, that per capita use during 1952-54 after allowance for net imports of manufactures probably was nearly the same as that of the prewar period and that the decline relative to 1946-48 probably was somewhat smaller than indicated by reported mill use.

(3) Competition for the consumer's dollar from budgetary items other than clothing increased. Both per capita disposable income and expenditure during 1952-54, after adjustment for price changes, were more than one and one-half times prewar. Nevertheless, per capita expenditure for clothing, in terms of constant dollars, was up only one-fifth. The proportion of total expenditure spent for clothing, which averaged 8.6 percent during 1935-39 and 9.7 percent during 1946-48, declined sharply to only 7.2 percent during 1952-54 (table 3a).

(4) There has been a trend toward more comfortable, less formal attire. Improvements in heating and transportation facilities have, over the years, encouraged a trend toward lighter-weight clothing. The shift to more casual, functional clothing has tended to accelerate this trend during the postwar years. In men's wear, there has been a pronounced shift from suits to "separates" - sport coat and trouser combinations - and, for summer wear, to sport-shirt and trousers. This change in clothing habits is reflected in the decline of 16 percent in total suit production between 1946-48 and 1952-54 and an increase of 27 percent in output of separate dress and sport trousers (table 4a). Output of separate coats increased 55 percent between 1946-48 and 1952, the latest year for which data are available. At the same time, while total suit production declined so sharply, production of summer suits increased 28 percent and accounted for 24 percent of the total in 1952-54 as against only 16 percent during the earlier period. There has also been a sharp decline in total production of topcoats and overcoats but with topcoats accounting for an increasingly larger proportion of total output.

The shift toward casualness in dress is also reflected in output of the various items of women's outerwear. While output of suits declined 3 percent and production of unit-priced dresses increased only 7 percent, production of skirts almost tripled (table 5a). The increase in output of blouses and sweaters was almost as great as that of skirts.

(e) Competition from other fiber, particularly man-made fiber, increased. While average annual per capita mill use of apparel wool for civilian and military goods during 1952-54, 2.04 pounds, was 46 percent below 1946-48 (3.76 pounds) and 6 percent below 1935-39 (2.18 pounds), per capita use of man-made staple fiber increased from an average of 0.34 pounds in 1935-39 to 1.82 pounds in 1946-48 to 2.76 pounds in 1952-54 (table 8a). The increase in the total use of man-made staple reflects in part the sharp increase in the use of such fiber in items, particularly apparel, for which wool traditionally has been considered the most desirable Some indication of the increase can be obtained from data on production of various apparel items (tables 4a through 7a). The proportion produced from wool during 1952-54 was substantially lower for practically all items. Furthermore, the declines have been greatest for those items, such as men's summer suits, men's separate trousers, sweaters, and women's skirts, which have increased in importance as items of outerwear. Although the proportions have increased during the last year or two for some items, the increases are small relative to the earlier declines.

Of the man-made fibers, rayon and acetate were until recent years the major competitors. The greatly improved quality and relatively lower prices of these fibers are among the major factors which have encouraged their use in these areas (table 9a). Several new staple fibers have been introduced in recent years and have become important competitors in some areas. Among these fibers are Acrilan, Dacron, Dynel, Nylon, Orlon, and Vicara.

Table 1a.- Imports of specified manufactures of wool and similar hair for consumption, United States, average 1935-39, annual 1946-54 1/

Year	Carbonized and uncarbonized noils	Wastes 2/	Tops of wool and other hair	Other wool and hair advanced 3/	Yarns	Woven fabrics, blankets, robes, etc. 4/	Knit wearing apparel 5/	Hats and hat bodies of wool felt and other apparel not knit or crocheted 6/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1935-39 average	5,765	2,655	171	9	486	5,440	1,172	2,658
1946	4,845	5,736	117	---	835	2,277	629	368
1947	4,091	2,256	264	---	390	2,725	849	329
1948	17,049	4,261	3,934	84	1,257	5,027	1,043	2,082
1946-48 average	8,662	4,084	1,438	28	827	3,343	840	926
1949	19,807	6,604	2,195	71	1,506	4,498	1,425	401
1950	20,561	13,245	4,205	274	2,413	9,556	2,660	568
1951	15,827	7,298	10,399	58	1,605	9,256	2,169	616
1952	25,477	11,721	23,122	125	2,386	12,945	2,181	629
1953	18,521	9,087	5,633	---	2,114	12,491	2,407	594
1954 7/	25,689	9,991	448	2	1,643	9,522	2,085	542
1952-54 average	23,229	10,266	9,734	42	2,048	11,653	2,224	588

1/ Imports for consumption include entries for immediate consumption and warehouse withdrawals for consumption. 2/ Includes top waste, slubbing waste, roving waste, garnetted waste, card or burr waste, flocks, and wastes not specially provided for. 3/ All wool or hair advanced in any way or by any process of manufacture beyond washed, scoured, or carbonized condition (except top, noils, and waste) but not further advanced than roving. 4/ Includes woven felts, belts, blankets, jackets, etc., for machines; pile fabrics and manufactures thereof; billiard cloths; blanketing and blankets; tapestries and upholstery goods; other woven fabrics of wool or hair. 5/ Includes hose and half hose, gloves, and mittens, underwear, hats, hoods, berets, and other knit wearing apparel. 6/ Includes bodies, hoods, forms, and shapes of wool felt for hats, bonnets, caps, berets, or similar articles of wool felt. 7/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the United States Department of Commerce.

Table 2a.- Exports of specified manufactures of wool and similar hair, United States, average 1935-39, annual 1946-54 1/

Year	Noils and wastes 2/	Tops 3/	Yarns 4/	Fabrics 5/	Felts 6/	Blankets 7/	Wearing apparel 8/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 articles
1935-39 average	692	[illegible]	28	260	59	[illegible]	104
1946	2,416	3,437	2,340	23,141	943	6,832	3,130
1947	4,978	7,101	4,347	17,298	850	3,150	764
1948	2,940	262	1,820	5,391	628	3,742	633
1946-48 average	3,445	3,600	2,836	15,277	807	4,575	1,509
1949	2,225	96	402	3,077	563	1,131	355
1950	1,385	54	414	2,410	409	761	208
1951	2,105	47	216	2,485	436	962	88
1952	2,255	51	316	1,229	437	164	93
1953	1,513	99	205	851	388	218	190
1954 9/	1,693	87	281	748	383	838	87
1952-54 average	1,820	79	267	943	403	407	123

1/ Includes Lend Lease shipments and shipments under United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Program. 2/ Noils, wastes, and recovered fiber. 3/ Wool and specialty hair tops, roving, and similar semimanufactures. 4/ Wool yarns. 5/ Wool cloth, knit, weighing not over 10 ounces per square yard and weighing over 10 ounces per square yard; wool cloth, woven, weighing not over 10 ounces per square yard and weighing over 10 ounces per square yard. 6/ Woven and other. 7/ Wool blankets and laprobes. 8/ Includes men's and boys' coats, overcoats, suits, pants and women's and children's suits, dresses, coats, and ensembles, but excludes knit goods. 9/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the United States Department of Commerce.

Table 3a.--Consumer personal expenditure for clothing related to disposable income and total personal expenditure, United States, average 1935-39, annual 1946-54

Year	Expenditure for clothing as a percent of			
	Disposable income		Total expenditure	
	In current dollars	In 1947-49 dollars	In current dollars	In 1947-49 dollars
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1935-39 Average	8.2	9.4	8.6	9.8
1946	9.5	9.4	10.3	10.3
1947	9.2	9.1	9.5	9.3
1948	8.8	8.7	9.3	9.2
1946-48 Average	9.2	9.1	9.7	9.6
1949	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.7
1950	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.2
1951	7.1	7.4	7.7	8.0
1952	7.0	7.5	7.6	8.1
1953	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.7
1954 1/	6.3	6.9	6.8	7.5
1952-54 Average 1/	6.6	7.2	7.2	7.8

1/ Preliminary.
Derived from data of the United States Department of Commerce.

Table 4a.--Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing and percentage distribution by fiber content, United States, 1946 to date 1/

Type of garment	Unit	1946	1947 2/	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953 2/	1954 3/
Suits	Thou.	23,135	25,723	23,412	19,497	23,695	19,559	19,336	21,665	19,305
Regular-weight	Thou.	20,014	21,732	19,104	15,824	19,110	15,242	15,110	16,292	14,277
50 percent or more wool 4/	Pct.	---	---	---	---	98.3	92.1	92.1	91.1	---
Other	Pct.	---	---	---	---	1.7	7.9	7.9	8.9	---
Summer-weight	Thou.	3,121	3,991	4,308	3,673	4,585	4,317	4,226	5,373	5,028
50 percent or more wool 4/	Pct.	5/72.2	5/72.3	5/66.2	54.1	49.2	35.1	27.8	30.3	35.7
Cotton	Pct.	5/27.8	5/7.6	5/33.8	45.9	50.8	3.7	3.2	69.7	64.3
Rayon	Pct.		5/20.1				61.2	69.0		
Separate dress and sport trousers	Thou.	41,796	42,750	37,742	38,533	46,998	39,010	45,785	56,267	53,400
50 percent or more wool 4/	Pct.	54.8	61.7	60.3	51.2	45.3	30.7	32.6	30.0	33.2
Rayon	Pct.	26.0	24.5	29.3	39.8	48.6	63.4	61.5	61.6	66.8
Cotton	Pct.	19.2	13.8	10.4	9.0	6.1	5.9	5.9	8.4	
Separate coats	Thou.	6,452	4,458	4,865	5,767	7,039	6,328	8,151	---	---
50 percent or more wool 4/	Pct.	5/90.7	5/81.4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cotton	Pct.	5/7.8	5/16.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rayon	Pct.	5/1.5	5/2.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Overcoats and topcoats	Thou.	7,941	7,233	6,194	5,628	6,550	5,540	5,318	5,694	4,245
Overcoats	Thou.	---	---	---	---	---	1,345	1,012	1,134	---
Topcoats	Thou.	---	---	---	---	---	4,195	4,306	4,560	---

1/ Years are periods of 52 calendar weeks except as noted.
2/ 53 weeks.
3/ Preliminary.
4/ 25 percent or more wool prior to 1951
5/ Derived from preliminary data.
Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67B, Bureau of the Census.

Table 5a.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear and percentage distribution by fiber content, United States, 1946 to date

Type of garment	Unit	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
Dresses (unit-priced)	Thousands	134,185	127,592	134,951	154,366	139,607	138,868	145,919	142,876	137,100
Rayon and acetate	Percent	78.9	81.1	81.6	74.6	72.0	69.5	65.9	61.4	57.7
Cotton	Do.	13.8	10.9	13.6	19.7	21.3	23.7	25.6	28.5)	
Nylon	Do.)						.8	2.4	2.8)	42.3
Wool	Do.)	7.3	8.0	4.8	5.7	6.7	3.6	3.7	4.1)	
Other	Do.)						2.4	2.4	3.2)	
Skirts	Thousands	21,540	23,736	34,884	53,268	57,408	54,720	66,612	72,864	72,420
Rayon and acetate	Percent	25.7	44.4	51.1	47.2	41.9	44.6	42.4	38.6	---
Cotton	Do.	5.7	7.1	10.7	25.3	29.9	31.3	33.5	34.3	---
Nylon	Do.)						.8	.6	.3	---
Wool	Do.)	68.6	48.5	38.2	27.5	28.2	22.8	22.3	24.6	---
Other	Do.)						.5	1.2	2.2	---
Suits	Thousands	17,491	14,091	14,963	16,652	18,048	18,178	16,648	14,264	14,143
Rayon and acetate	Percent	9.5	11.1	20.1	34.4	41.6	59.7	61.1	54.5	49.8
Cotton	Do.	1.4	2.3	3.5	1.6	1.8	1.5	2.7	3.5)	
Wool	Do.)	89.1	86.6	76.4	64.0	56.6	37.8	35.1	40.9)	50.2
Other	Do.)						1.0	1.1	1.1)	
Coats	Thousands	21,824	20,613	25,304	25,615	24,703	23,902	26,628	24,033	25,979
Untrimmed	Do.	20,139	18,690	22,936	23,571	22,598	21,995	24,836	22,703	---
Rayon and acetate	Percent	1.5	.9	1.2	3.8	9.5	22.1	13.9	9.3	---
Cotton	Do.	.7	.5	.4	.6	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.4	---
Wool	Do.)	97.8	98.6	98.4	95.6	89.1	76.5	84.8	88.0	---
Other	Do.)						.2	.2	1.3	---
Fur-trimmed	Thousands	1,685	1,923	2,368	2,044	2,105	1,907	1,792	1,330	---
Rayon and acetate	Percent	---	---	---	---	---	7.3	10.0	4.0	---
Cotton	Do.	---	---	---	---	---	2/	2/	---	---
Wool	Do.	---	---	---	---	---	92.7	90.0	96.0	---

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 6a.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of specified items of children's and infants' outerwear by fiber content, United States, 1948-53

Item	1948	1949 1/	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Coats (including capes and reversibles)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.8	2.3	2.4
Rayon and acetate	2.6	2.9	8.0	15.5	15.7	14.7
Wool and other	94.5	94.2	88.5	80.7	82.0	82.9
Coat and legging and coat-and-snow pants sets	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	1.3	1.2	3.1	4.9	7.6	7.9
Rayon and acetate	---	0.1	1.4	5.8	10.5	7.5
Wool and other	98.7	98.7	95.5	89.3	81.9	84.6
Ski and snow suits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	43.7	36.9	32.7	25.5	27.8	23.8
Rayon and acetate	9.3	15.6	30.8	42.6	34.4	34.9
Wool and other	47.0	47.5	36.5	31.9	37.8	41.3
Ski and snow pants and leggings	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	14.1	26.5	16.6	20.6	8.9	9.5
Rayon and acetate	---	0.1	1.6	1.0	10.0	14.3
Wool and other	85.9	73.4	81.8	78.4	81.1	76.2
Suits (except ski and snow suits and slack suits)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	11.2	15.6	25.0	35.9	29.8	21.9
Rayon	---	16.3	33.2	44.5	54.6	61.3
Wool and other	88.8	68.1	41.8	19.6	15.6	16.8
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	---	36.8	40.7	40.1	47.3	48.2
Rayon and acetate	---	5.6	10.7	16.1	20.0	20.0
Wool and other	---	57.6	48.6	43.8	32.7	31.8
Slacks	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	77.6	82.0	83.6	83.9	83.6	78.6
Rayon and acetate	(22.4	1.5	3.5	8.7	11.5	15.6
Wool and other	(	16.5	12.9	7.4	4.9	5.8
Slack suits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	89.7	85.4	66.4	72.6	26.4	14.5
Rayon and acetate	(10.3	3.8	10.0	13.3	67.5	83.4
Wool and other	(	10.8	23.6	14.1	6.1	2.1
Jackets	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	70.4	72.3	79.7	64.9	71.5	66.3
Rayon and acetate	---	0.5	8.8	23.1	12.7	19.5
Wool and other	29.6	27.2	11.5	12.0	15.8	14.2

1/ Derived from preliminary data.

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67K, Bureau of the Census.

Table 7a.- Percentage distribution of production of sweaters, knit jackets, and jerseys, by fiber content and type, United States, 1948-53

Class and product	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Men's	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	77.9	76.4	76.0	71.1	70.8	74.1
Part wool - 25 percent or more wool	6.9	6.5	9.3	10.3	7.8	8.6
Other	15.2	17.1	14.7	18.6	21.4	17.3
Women's						
Sweaters and jerseys	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	74.8	68.8	64.2	58.9	55.3	54.2
All nylon	25.2	31.2	28.7	31.4	29.8	20.9
Other			7.1	9.7	14.9	24.9
Cardigans	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	91.3	85.7	85.9	74.7	74.0	63.8
All nylon	8.7	14.3	7.8	15.7	15.5	11.3
Other			6.3	9.6	10.5	24.9
Boys'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	73.7	69.2	64.7	47.4	61.1	52.3
Part wool - 25 percent or more wool	7.7	9.3	9.0	11.5	8.8	6.8
Other	18.6	21.5	26.3	41.1	30.1	40.9
Girls'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	97.5	90.4	79.8	69.9	62.2	45.4
All nylon	2.5	9.6	16.9	24.5	34.9	43.3
Other			3.3	5.6	2.9	11.3
Children's	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	78.7	75.6	62.0	50.3	49.8	41.2
Other	21.3	24.4	38.0	49.7	50.2	58.8
Infants'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	85.0	75.0	73.5	64.9	59.7	53.7
Other	15.0	25.0	26.5	35.1	40.3	46.3

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67G, Bureau of the Census.

Table 8a.--Per capita consumption of wool and man-made staple fiber, United States, average 1935-39, annual 1946-54

Year	Wool 1/			Man-made staple		
	Apparel	Carpet	Total	Cellulosic 2/	Non-cellulosic 3/	Total
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1935-39 Average	2.18	0.74	2.92	0.34	---	0.34
1946	4.31	.90	5.21	1.48	0.07	1.55
1947	3.65	1.20	4.85	1.79	.02	1.81
1948	3.31	1.42	4.73	2.07	.03	2.10
1946-48 Average	3.76	1.17	4.93	1.78	.04	1.82
1949	2.27	1.08	3.35	1.41	.07	1.48
1950	2.88	1.30	4.18	2.61	.15	2.76
1951	2.47	.66	3.13	2.66	.21	2.87
1952	2.21	.76	2.97	2.36	.30	2.66
1953	2.25	.85	3.10	2.24	.33	2.57
1954 4/	1.65	.71	2.36	2.67	.38	3.05
1952-54 Average	2.04	.77	2.81	2.42	.34	2.76

1/ Scoured basis. 2/ Domestic shipments plus imports for consumption. 3/ Production less exports plus imports for consumption. 4/ Preliminary

Derived from data of the Bureau of the Census and Textile Economics Bureau.

Table 9a .--Indexes of prices of wool and man-made cellulosic staple fiber, United States, average 1935-39, annual 1946 to 1954

Year	Wool		Cellulosic staple	
	Fine 1/	Medium 2/	Viscose 3/	Acetate 4/
1935-39 Average	100	100	100	100
1946	119	124	90	74
1947	148	136	113	91
1948	200	163	129	91
1949	211	156	127	82
1950	242	197	128	81
1951	307	305	141	91
1952	189	167	140	81
1953	218	161	124	68
1954	213	176	120	65

1/ Australian 64's, 70's good topmaking, clean basis, duty-paid, Boston. 2/ Montevideo super 1's (56's), clean basis, duty-paid, Boston. 3/ $1\frac{1}{2}$ denier. 4/ 5 denier.

Derived from prices reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics, Textile Economics Bureau, and United States Department of Agriculture.

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